He followed this up, despite his assurances earlier in the year that he would endeavour to avert further bloodshed, by announcing, in October, that a Northern Punitive Expedition was being formed to expel President Tsao Kun—who had bribed Parliament to elect him—from office.

Eight times the capture of Waichow by Dr. Sun's forces was reported, and proved to be false. Dr. Sun spent much of his time with the Army that was besieging this centre, while matters went from bad to worse in Canton and the neighbourhood. The attitude of the Yunnanese became more and more truculent. They not only established tax offices all round Canton, but ousted the Magistrates of Heungshan and Shuntak, and it was necessary to send Cantonese units to reinstate them. Their financial demands and those of other military units daily became more exorbitant. Canton had to be bled white to meet them, and the most unscru-pulous methods of raising funds were adopted. A Poll Tax of $i per person was imposed upon all men who wished to avoid military conscription. A so-called land-inquisition was inaugurated, which will be described later. In October the fire-cracker shops and restaurants struck as a protest against war taxes; in November the Pawnshops went on strike in protest against forced loans.

Thrice during
the year 1923 landlords were called
upon to con*
tribute a month's rent towards Dr. Sun's
War Chest.
A foreign visitor to Canton thus
described the
situation:—

> *[t] Not in recent times had such, a debacle of
> maladministra-
> tion been 'witnessed in China, as has been
> sweeping Cantoa